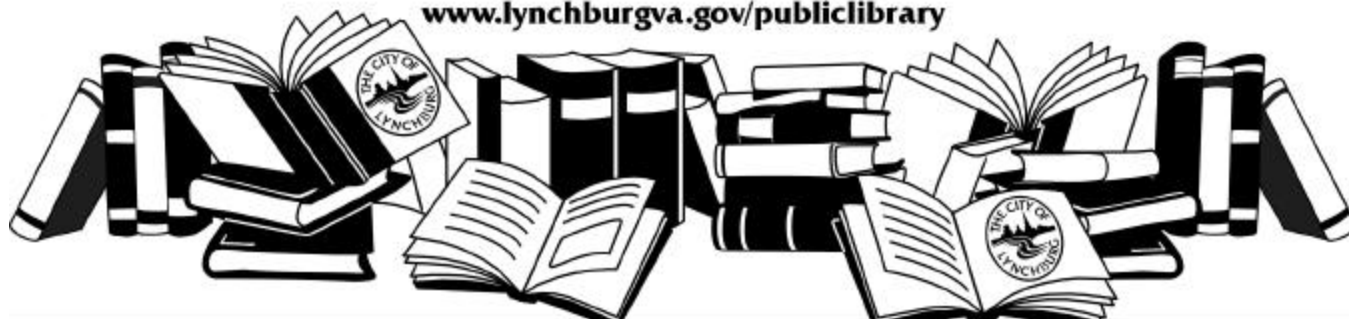


LYNCHBURG PUBLIC LIBRARY

www.lynchburgva.gov/publiclibrary



Volume 2, Number 1

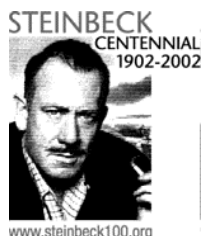
NEWSLETTER

February/March 2002



New Computer Lab is Open for Business @ your library™

The new computer lab at the Main Library is now officially in use. Thanks to a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the library has eleven computers that will be available for classes. An open house was held on Thursday evening, January 17 to show off the new lab to library patrons and other interested people. Our new lab coordinator, Stuart Byczynski, will be offering classes in Basic Keyboard and Mouse Skills, E-mail, Internet, and Microsoft Word. Each class will last from 1½ to 2 hours, and is free. See the February/March schedule elsewhere in newsletter. You may sign up for classes by calling the adult reference desk at 847-1566.



Lynchburg Reads @ your library™

Following the lead of cities such as Seattle, Chicago, and Buffalo, the Lynchburg Public Library is initiating a citywide reading program, "Lynchburg Reads."

The goal of the new program is to give everyone in the city the opportunity to read and discuss the same book. To tie in with the centennial of his birth, John Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men* has been chosen. Besides the library,

city high and middle schools and local bookstores, will be involved. The E.C. Glass High School drama department is staging the play in May, the library will show the 1992 video, starring Gary Sinise and John Malkovich, there will be book discussions at various locations, and Dr. Susan Shillinglaw, a Steinbeck scholar, will speak. The library will be ordering extra copies of the book, and the unabridged audiotape, and will also order copies of both the 1939 and the 1992 videos. The events are scheduled to take place in April and May.

Look for more details about this exciting new series of events in the coming weeks. For more information, call 847-1566.



Senior Citizens are Special @ your library™

Did you know that if you are 60 or older you may request an extended loan period for some of the items you check out? The extended loan period is for an additional three weeks and is available on all items **except** new books and videos. If you would like the additional time, just remember to ask the circulation staff member for the extended loan **before** checkout begins. **Every** day is Senior Citizen Day at your library!



Celebrate Black History Month @ your library™

February is **Black History Month**. The reference staff has prepared A *Guide to African American History and Biography*, which will help you find library materials on everything from the history of Civil Rights in America to Modern Black Writers to biographies of influential African Americans. Please stop in and pick up a copy.

Additionally, Microsoft's *Encarta Africana*, an electronic resource, is available on the computers at both the main and downtown branches.

In Youth Services, a display of books honoring **Black History Month** will offer a wide variety of reading levels and interests. Everything from picture books to non-fiction books is available.



Award-winning Children's Books @ your library™

Youth Services will be exhibiting two book collections during the month of February.

In addition to the Black History Month display, there will also be a display of **Caldecott Medal Winners and Honor Books**. The Caldecott Medal was named in honor of nineteenth-century English illustrator Randolph Caldecott. It is awarded annually by the Association for Library Service to Children, a division of the American Library Association, to the artist of the most distinguished American picture book for children.



Library Use on Upswing

Historically, during recessionary times, public library use increases. The number of items checked out is one indicator. A trend analysis of the past 6 months' circulation statistics compared with the same months in 2000 shows use is on the upswing. Currently, 35,000 items are circulated, on average, each month.

Increases of 10% were recorded in both July and August. In September, in spite of the events of 9/11 that seemed to put the entire country "on hold," the monthly circulation count was slightly above that of September 2000. In October, checkouts were up 20% (perhaps reflecting, in part, a return to "normalcy" after the events of 9/11). The November figures were up 10% and December numbers were up 20%, which meant people were home reading (and not out shopping and spending money). This mirrors experiences during the 1991 recessionary period, when circulation figures for 1991 were 5% higher than 1990, climbed to an all-time high (505,000) in 1993 and have been slightly declining each year ever since, thanks to a strong economy. In mid-2001 they started back upward.

The Tuesday after the Martin Luther King Holiday was also busy! Checkouts numbered 2,629 and checkins 3,730 for a total of 6,359 items handled. The combination of bad weather the previous Saturday, and the Monday holiday were in part responsible for the increase of 2,009 more items handled than on the comparable day in 2001!



Public Law Library Use

The Public Law Library is one of four law libraries in the Downtown area. Branch Head Marilyn Martin has worked with the others to coordinate their collections. The Federal Courthouse maintains the Federal materials and two Judges have their own small collections; these libraries are not generally open to the public. The Public Law Library provides the primary resources on State law and maintains a collection of self-help books on popular topics for the lay person. The legal materials are used by four distinct groups:

- Citizens: About 500 citizens annually use the Law Library. The Branch staff usually assists them with their research.
- Legal Course work: CVCC offers a course in Legal Bibliography each Fall. It is taught by a local attorney at night and there are usually 15 students. Most of the classes are held in the Law Library.
- Legal Community: In FY 2001, they made about 7,000 photocopies and checked out 278 legal reference books.
- Prisoners: The Blue Ridge Regional Jail provides a small legal collection, but the prisoners often need additional materials. In FY 2001, the Public Law Library handled 35 requests for assistance and provided 500 photocopies to that group.

Over the past two years staff have been gradually shifting the Law Library collection from a primarily book format to a predominantly CD-ROM format and are making more use of the on-line capabilities. The switch to electronic formats will save valuable shelf space (the room is rapidly filling up with books) and the CD's are easier to manage; they require considerably less time to check in and shelve.

The Law Library tends to get its heaviest use in early morning and late in the day as the legal professionals use it before and after work.



Five Points on Reading from Rosemary Wells, author of numerous children's books

1. Children who read succeed. The most significant part of a child's mental growth between the ages of three and seven is the ability to imagine. *Books boost imagination.* Our popular television culture degrades imagination.
2. TV and video are now our national babysitters. But a young child's growing mind needs active play and live conversation. Television puts a child into what neurologists call the passive Alpha state. *A child cannot learn from screens* because programs are meant to sell products not to teach.
3. Much like the first news about tobacco and cholesterol, early studies now link overdoses of TV, video games and pop music with learning disabilities, attention deficiency, speech defects and aggressive behavior.
4. Screen watching makes a child a follower and a consumer. Books exist because of the power of human ideas. *Readers are leaders and producers.*
5. After a tiring day, nothing is more restful than reading with a child on your lap. Reading aloud offers a world of privacy, dignity and love to both of you.

Adapted for The Library Of Virginia from the Texas Library Association.

Lorry Risinger, Youth Services Coordinator



Find It Virginia @ your library™

We are pleased to announce that we are now providing access to **Find It Virginia**, a part of the Infopowering the Commonwealth initiative. **Find It Virginia** is a cooperative project of the Library of Virginia and Virginia's public libraries, which is designed to promote and support public access computing, Internet connectivity, and quality information resources in all Virginia public libraries. Through statewide funding, all residents of the Commonwealth can have equal access to essential resources for life long learning.

The Library of Virginia, in cooperation with the Virginia Information Providers Network (VIPNet), developed **Find It Virginia**, to deliver library information resources to Virginia residents at home, at work, or wherever they connect to the Internet. Full-text magazines, newspapers, and reference books are accessible via **www.finditva.com**. Specialized information is also available in the areas of business, health and wellness, literary criticism and homework help.. **Find It Virginia** can be accessed from the library's web page at **www.lynchburgva.gov/publiclibrary**, or by going directly to **www.finditva.com**. Have your library card handy, as your library barcode number will be needed to gain access.

Library Hours

Main – Mon., Wed., Fri., Sat. – 9:30 AM-5:30 PM

Tues., Thurs.– 9:30 AM-9:00 PM

Downtown Branch – Mon.– Fri. 9:30 AM-5:30 PM

**Both libraries will be closed on Monday,
February 18**



Youth Services Introduces New Concept Corner @ your library™

A is for Alligator

B is for Balloon

And **C** is for Concept Corner

Come visit our new **CONCEPT CORNER** in Youth Services where a collection of alphabet, numbers, colors, sizes/shapes and opposites picture books wait to be checked out and taken home. Sharing these simple but important concepts with your children helps them to develop a strong learning foundation before starting kindergarten. So come on over and check us out!

Main Library

2315 Memorial Ave.
Lynchburg, VA 24501

Circulation, Renewals,

Returns, Library Cards 847-1565

Reference and Information 847-1566

Youth Services 847-1717

Administration and

Technical Services 847-1577

Volunteer Program 847-1577

Downtown Branch and Law Library

900 Church Street
Lynchburg, VA 24504
847-1768